

VZCZCXRO7681
PP RUEHRG
DE RUEHBR #0874 1361927
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 161927Z MAY 07
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8946
INFO RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO 4391
RUEHSO/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 9878
RUEHRG/AMCONSUL RECIFE 6651

UNCLAS BRASILIA 000874

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE PLS PASS TO USDA DLAWRENCE
STATE FOR WHA/BSC WPOPP
STATE FOR G FOR PBATES
STATE FOR OES/PCI FOR FCOLON
STATE FOR OES/EGC DNELSON
STATE PLS PASS TO EPA/HILL-MACON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SENV](#) [KSCA](#) [TRGY](#) [BR](#)

SUBJECT: BRAZIL'S ENVIRONMENT MINISTER SILVA DISCUSSES MINISTRY
PRIORITIES

¶1. SUMMARY. During a wide-ranging conversation with Ambassador Sobel and other Embassy staff on May 11, 2007, Brazil's Minister for the Environment, Marina Silva, discussed bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Topics included Brazil's proposal regarding compensated deforestation, Ministry priorities, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act and the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT). END SUMMARY

¶2. Minister Silva outlined Brazil's proposal for Compensated Reduction of Deforestation to address climate change. This proposal, which Brazil tabled at the United Nations Climate Change Conference meeting in Nairobi last November, advocates the creation of a voluntary fund that would reward developing countries for their already completed efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing deforestation. Funds would be donated voluntarily by developed countries. Ambassador Sobel said while the White House was interested in learning more, the U.S. Treasury had expressed concerns about setting up a new multilateral funding mechanism. Minister Silva said that it would be similar to the PPG7 fund, in which donors had put billions to preserve the Amazon. The new fund would operate similarly but instead provide fiscal incentives for voluntary reductions in deforestation. Minister Silva promised the Ambassador more detailed information on Brazil's proposal after this week's meeting in Bonn but before the G-8.

¶3. Ambassador Sobel suggested that it might be useful for Minister Silva to meet with U.S. Treasury Secretary Paulson during his upcoming visit to Brazil in July. Because he is concerned about the environment, Paulson should hear from the Minister about Brazil's efforts to create protected areas. Minister Silva responded positively to the suggestion. Subjects for discussion between the two could include the Amazon Region Protected Areas Program (ARPA), pollutant emission reduction and the Chico Mendes Institute.

¶4. Minister Silva listed the priorities for the Ministry as the development of parks, the creation of conservation units, tropical forest management, reduced deforestation and the establishment of the Chico Mendes Institute.

¶5. On the subject of the proposed Tropical Forest Conservation Act, Minister Silva said she had concerns about the composition of the Board that would administer the funds, that funds would only go to NGO's and expressed her preference that no Board member have the right to veto.

¶6. Concerning the Department's Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT) initiative, Minister Silva repeated concerns that Brazil still needed clarification on how the Initiative would relate

to CITES and believed that flora and trafficking in genetic resources, biopiracy, should be included. Until those issues are resolved, Brazil would continue to be an observer at CAWT meetings she said. (The paper Minister Silva presented outlining Brazil's concern was sent to the Department previously.)

¶7. Ambassador Sobel encouraged Minister Silva to participate in the May 17 U.S.-Brazil Common Agenda for the Environment meetings scheduled in Brasilia, so that the Ministry's opinions on issues are heard.

¶8. NOTE: Brazil's Ministry of the Environment was hit with a strike which began, May 14. The 6000 plus employees of IBAMA, the enforcement division of the Ministry, are striking to prevent the enactment of a proposed reorganization under which they would lose some of their authority to the newly created Chico Mendes Institute. Brazil's President Lula signed an act to implement the reorganization, but it has to be confirmed by the Brazilian Congress within 30 days. IBAMA's workers plan to stay out until the issue is resolved.

SOBEL